

## Washington State Department of Agriculture 2010 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Awards

- The **Center for Produce Safety** (\$58,885) to determine the occurrence of microbial contaminants of fresh market apples and identify practices industry participants are using to mitigate these contaminants.
- The **Washington State University Small Farms Team** (\$141,468) to collect data on specialty crop purchases and provide education at 20 farmers markets currently enrolled in the state legislature-initiated electronic benefits transfer/credit/debit pilot program and to expand the technology to 20 new markets for the 2011 season. The use of tokens will allow the markets to separate specialty crops from non-specialty crops so that Washington State University can analyze only specialty crop data.
- The **Washington Apple Commission** (\$216,286) to provide training to key retailers in six emerging markets (Russia, Indonesia, Middle East, Malaysia, China, and Brazil) in produce department layout design and produce handling, including follow-up display contests and evaluations.
- The **Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network** (\$172,000) to build public awareness and support through education, outreach, and organization for 20 school districts in order to increase their purchases of Washington's fruits and vegetables specialty crops.
- **Sustainable Connections** (\$220,338) to fulfill and increase the overall demand for locally produced specialty crops through targeted assessment, marketing, and promotion as well as to increase the production capacity and competitiveness of Northwest Washington's new and established specialty crop producers through business development and technical/production assistance.
- The **Washington Wine Industry Foundation** (\$128,250) to develop a free, web-based educational resource to provide Washington wineries guidance on improving sustainable practices through compiling and analyzing information that provides "real life" examples.
- **WSDA's Domestic Marketing & Economic Development Program** (\$129,300) to assist small to medium sized specialty crop growers to develop value-added, processed products and to directly market these products through fostering an environment that enables producers to collaboratively identify alternative market opportunities to increase farm profitability.
- **Pear Bureau Northwest** (\$100,000) working in partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, to augment market development and access, as well as provide consumer education concerning USA pear products, varietal development and nutritional benefits in Mexico.
- The **Northwest Agriculture Business Center** (\$95,009) to improve the economic sustainability of specialty crop producers in western Washington through the development of a network of people, businesses, products, and facilities to provide a route to market for local agricultural products. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities.

- The **Washington State Horticultural Association** (\$58,500) to demonstrate the size and spatial distribution of the economic effects of the tree fruit industry – both overall and for seven key tree fruit counties – through a study that examines its economic sustainability, stability, and development.
- The **Washington State Farmers Market Association** (\$43,500) to provide farmer education on critical topics in order to help them succeed at farmers markets as well as facilitate opportunities for specialty crop farmers and farmers markets to connect and network.
- **WSDA's Domestic Marketing & Economic Development Program** (\$30,000) to conduct specialty crop agri-culinary tourism training workshops for specialty crop farmers and to develop food-based/agritourism travel itineraries that advertise farms' offerings in order to drive consumer interest and increase participating businesses' sales of specialty crops and services.
- **WSDA's International Marketing Program** (\$169,206) to conduct three trade development missions with industry leaders to India, Asia (Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia), Mexico and Latin America in order to perform market promotional activities, resolve industry-specific trade barrier issues, and identify future market opportunities for Washington grown specialty crops.
- **Washington State University's Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center** (\$199,108) to use knowledge and educational materials to reach additional growers and farm workers with knowledge of new insecticides, their proper fit into an integrated pest management program, and their safety relative to products they replace.
- The **Western Washington Agriculture Association** (\$228,800) to provide direct professional and technical assistance to specialty crop landowners/irrigators and the drainage and irrigation districts that will facilitate the implementation of improved water management and service delivery functions in the Skagit delta area. Matching funds will be utilized to cover expenditures for non-specialty crop commodities.
- The **Washington Farm Labor Association** (\$21,805) to identify the most important barriers – both employer and worker – that are preventing specialty crop producers from attracting a legal and stable workforce, and educate growers as to the strategies to overcome the barriers that exist.
- **21 Acres** (\$48,500) to facilitate and promote workshops at the Annual Focus on Farming Conference that specifically address specialty crop topics of concern.
- **WSDA's Food Assistance Program** (\$17,500) to facilitate four regional meetings designed to increase awareness of specialty crops among emergency food providers and bring the emergency food community together with local small and medium-size specialty crop farmers in order foster the development of a network of business interactions.
- The **Washington State Potato Commission** (\$250,000) to quantify the production efficiency and sustainability of recent clones and cultivars of potatoes from the Pacific Northwest Potato Variety Development Program.
- **Washington State University** (\$112,623) to take advantage of existing industry-supported research and field plantings of Nordmann and Turkish fir to identify superior sources and individual trees that are resistant to Phytophthora root rot and current season needle necrosis, are adapted to the Pacific Northwest climate and production conditions,

and that exhibit superior postharvest needle retention.

- **Washington State University** (\$136,037) to determine whether raspberry varieties differ in their susceptibility to *P. penetrans*, and identify the conditions under which *P. penetrans* must be managed.
- **The Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association** (\$75,700) to improve the control of tree fruit pests and diseases by improving the internal processes of and coordination between county horticultural pest and disease boards.
- **Washington State University** (\$182,069) to continue research initiated in 2008-09 in large-scale grower-cooperator fields, which evaluates fungicide seed treatments, fungicide sprays, fumigation with Telone II, and cultural practices that enable growers to optimize the duration between herbicide kill and incorporation of cereal cover crops prior to planting onion or pea crops, by minimizing losses to *Rhizoctonia*.
- **WSDA's Pest Program** (\$33,094) to conduct a European Grapevine Moth survey to demonstrate pest-free areas of fruit production in Washington and if necessary provide information to support early detection and rapid response to any nascent European Grapevine Moth populations.
- **Washington State University** (\$216,019) to provide cut flower bulb growers with improved diagnostic and management tools to reduce losses associated with the buildup of viral and soilborne fungal diseases.
- **The Washington Growers Clearing House Association** (\$99,500) to survey acreage inventories by crop, variety, age, productivity, and production system, which will assist tree fruit and grape growers in their decision-making processes and reduce the impacts of year-to-year variability.
- **Cascade Harvest Coalition** (\$159,869) to address the financial and legal risks that beginning specialty crop farmers and farmland owners face in accessing different land tenure arrangements and help build new business relationships between the two groups.